command and control of Indian forces, their role and mandate, and the relationship with the UN were also discussed.

(c) The U.S. officials offered clarifications on some of the political and operational issues raised by Foreign Secretary. They provided their assessment of the situation in Iraq as well as the U.S. interpretation of the UNSC Resolution 1483.

Assurance by U.S. President to prevent infiltration

492. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Petersburg, the U.S. President assured him to impress upon President of Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent infiltration by militants into J&K; and

(b) if so, what is Government's information regarding the steps taken to carry out the assurances in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The United States maintains that it continues to press Pakistan for an end to cross-border infiltration. President Bush said at the joint press briefing with President Musharraf after their Camp David meeting on 24 June 2003; "we discussed the need to address extremism and cross-border infiltration, and I assured the President that the United States will do all we can to promote peace". A senior U.S. official stated in his briefing. "I think the president put it about as well as anybody can, which is what we expect and what we think Musharraf needs to commit to and we think he has committed to is a hundred percent effort at trying to stop cross-border incidents."

Talks with China

493. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what new relations have been established with China through the Prime Minister's visit to that country;

(b) whether Government have accepted the sovereignty of China over Tibet; and

(c) whether our border problem with China is expected to be solved within a shorter time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, a Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China was signed which sets out the shared perspectives on the future development of bilateral relationship.

(b) These is no change in India's position on Tibet.

(c) In the Declaration issued on June 23, India and China have reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution of the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing. It has been agreed that pending an ultimate solution, the two countries work together to maintain peace and tranquility in their border areas, and continue to implement the agreements signed for this purpose, including the clarification of the Line of Actual Control. India and China have also agreed to each appoint Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement.

Invitation to Israeli PM to Visit India

494. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an invitation has been extended to the Israeli PM to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the date the invitation was extended;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's National Security Advisor proposed a US-Israel-India alliance;

(d) if so, whether there is any shift from Government stand on West Asia; and